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Message Text

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20
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 /070 W
---------- 051784
R 081430Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3741
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR ECON LY PL XF
SUBJ: OFFICIAL POLISH SUPPORT FOR QADHAFI

1. EGYPTIAN PRESS ATTACHE NABIL OSMAN MAHMOUD SAID YESTERDAY THAT THE GOP HAS BEGUN TO PLAY UP COL. QADHAFI'S ROLE AS A LEADER OF THE ARAB CAUSE AND TO DOWNPLAY PRESIDENT SADAT. MAHMOUD TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT THE GOP HAS INDICATED TO THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY THAT THE NEW "OFFICIAL ATTITUDE" DOES NOT REFLECT TRUE GOP THINKING, BUT MERELY REFLECTS PRESSURE FROM MOSCOW.

2. MAHMOUD SAID SEVERAL RANKING POLISH OFFICIALS HAVE ASSURED THE EGYPTIANS THAT THE NEW POLISH POSITION WILL BE CONFINED "ALMOST ENTIRELY TO THE NEWS MEDIA". THE SHIFT IN ATTITUDE WAS HERALDED ON SEPTEMBER 1 WHEN THE POLISH PRESS REPLAYED, IN A SHORTER, LOWER-KEYED VERSION, A LENGTHY PRAVDA ARTICLE GLORIFYING
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QADHAFI AS OPPOSED TO SADAT.

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3. THE POLISH OFFICIALS EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE MOMENTUM FOR A FINAL PEACEFUL SOLUTION IN THE MIDDLE EAST HAS BEEN LOST, PARTLY BECAUSE OF SADAT'S HANDLING OF THE SITUATION. THESE SAME OFFICIALS, HOWEVER, HAVE SAID PRIVATELY THAT THEY CANNOT CONSIDER QADHAFI AS ANYMORE THAN A FIFTH-RATE LOCAL POLITICIAN AND CERTAINLY NO MATCH FOR SADAT AS A PRIME MOVER IN THE ARAB WORLD.

4. MAHMOUD SAID THE POLES WANT TO STAY ON GOOD TERMS WITH QADHAFI BECAUSE THEY EXPECT TO REAP ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES, INCLUDING FAVORABLE OIL DEALS, FROM CLOSER LIBYAN-POLISH RELATIONS. HE SAID THE POLES ARE ALREADY INVOLVED IN LIBYAN URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND PLANT CONSTRUCTION.
DAVIES

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